

## **Wise County Treasurer**



## **DELORES W. SMITH, CPA**

206 East Main Street
PO Box 1308
Wise, Virginia 24293
(276) 328-3666 • FAX (276) 328-4570
email: smith\_d@wisecounty.org

August 19, 2011

Marlene Dortch Secretary Federal communications Commission 445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, S.W. Washington, D.C. 20554

RE: AT&T and T-Mobile's proposed merger, WT Proceeding No. 11-65

Dear Commissioners:

More than 20 years in public accounting has given me a firm grasp on working with numbers; I currently serve as Treasurer for Wise County, Virginia. When I consider the proposed merger of T-Mobile USA and AT&T, I see that the numbers stand to work in Wise County's favor.

The \$8 billion that AT&T plans to invest in infrastructure for its 4G LTE network deployment post-merger could stimulate economic activity and encourage additional investment. As well, the 55 million more Americans, Wise County residents among them, who would acquire high-speed mobile Internet access would see new educational opportunities, quality-of-life improvements, and online e-commerce saving. The Economic Policy Institute has estimated that 55,000 to 96,000 new jobs could be created nationwide by investment related to this merger, which could bring employment opportunities to our area.

Beyond the sheer numbers, the value of this merger also lies in the advantages it would bring to Wise County's business community. With the help of next-generation business application, our businesses could better compete and succeed in today's competitive marketplace.

Please keep the benefits of this merger for communities like Wise County in mind as you debate the future of this transaction.

Sincerely,

Delores W. Smith, CPA, MGT

Delores W. Smith

Treasurer, Wise County

CC:

Chairman Julius Genachowski Commissioner Mignon Clyburn Commissioner Michael Copps Commissioner Robert McDowell